

# The Commoner.

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THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.

As water to a dog afflicted with rabies, so the mention of organized labor to the Chicago Chronicle.

It seems to keep a number of the republican "redeemers" of Kansas and Nebraska busy dodging the penitentiary.

The candidate for delegate to the St. Louis convention who opposes being instructed is a good man to leave at home.

The war news from Tibet sounds very much like some British medical officer is striving for an undeserved promotion.

We gather from republican sources that the Filipinos will be given their independence just as soon as there is nothing else left for them to have.

Legislation by proclamation is a natural result of drifting away from time-honored precedents in the way of government by consent.

The scientist who mourns the disappearance of ambidexterity never saw one of our modern official grafters working both hands in the public treasury.

The republican legislature of Iowa has amended its anti-pass bill so as to permit the giving and receiving of passes, and in this form the bill will pass.

The beef trust seems thoroughly satisfied that Attorney General Knox will not run amuck. The injunctionless injunction is a weapon that the beef trust does not fear.

It would appear that the decision of the supreme court in the merger case is wonderfully pleasing. It pleases the president and will not hurt the trusts as long as Mr. Roosevelt is president.

"Some time all will be known," plaintively remarks Senator Burton. But if there is anything in precedent the senator will refrain from making it known until after the statute of limitations operates.

Perhaps the friends of Secretary Gage base their objections to Mr. Sulzer's reference to the "New York customs house fraud" upon the fact that the truth always hurts when a wrong is exposed.

It appears that the republican machine managers object to the expenditure of any money in the promotion of a candidate's boom unless it is money fried from protected trusts and expended by themselves.

Thomas Lawson and "Gas" Addicks are each declaring that the other is guilty of false swearing. Up to date no one has questioned the competency of the witnesses as to the veracity of the parties to the dispute.

Kansas and Nebraska were "redeemed" by the republicans but a short time ago. The honest voters of these two states are cordially invited to express their opinion upon the "redemption," but profane expletives are barred.

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The expense of maintaining the White house during the three years of President Roosevelt's incumbency is greater than the expense during any two full administrations of his predecessors. Is rough riding to be displaced by rough spending?

It is charged that corruption is the real source of trouble in Korea. We do not know the name of the party in power in Korea, but it is safe to say that if translated literally it would sound very much like the one in power in this country.

Mr. Warren B. Wilson insists that the Panama canal payments are unauthorized, therefore he has brought suit to prevent them from being made. It is quite evident that Mr. Wilson has not been keeping up with the modern methods of official procedure.

A great many Iowa republicans admit that the Cummins idea of the tariff is right, but they insist that because it is somewhat democratic they are justified in opposing it. When a republican starts out to find an excuse for being such he always manages to wind up with a big bunch of crimped logic about his person.

Lincoln, Neb., elected three democrats to the city council at the election this month, or one more than they ever elected before. This is not printed as an item of news, but merely for the edification of those who have repeatedly called attention to Mr. Bryan's inability to carry the city that is normally republican by 1,800 majority in a total vote of about 4,500.

On another page will be found an extended discussion of the merger decision, which recently appeared in Harper's Weekly. A careful perusal of that discussion will show how important it is that the supreme court shall not be packed in favor of the corporations. It is even now doubtful whether a favorable decision can be expected in case of the prosecution of any of the numerous trusts, and certainly there would be no hope of a successful attack upon the trusts if a corporation president appointed a successor to Judge Harlan.

All those democrats who are willing to plead guilty to insanity during the campaigns of 1896 and 1900, when Mr. Cleveland and the so-called "sane democrats" were helping the republican party, will please send their names to Hon. G. Cleveland, Princeton, N. J. Those living near enough can call in person, as the ex-president probably has a mourners' bench in the back yard, where repentant democrats can kneel and confess their political sins. Those who regard their loyalty to the democratic party in 1896 and 1900 as evidence of sanity and patriotism will continue to treat with contempt the insults hurled at them by Mr. Cleveland.

If there is nothing rotten in the postal department, why are republican congressmen so averse to a thorough investigation? It has been openly charged that corruption is rife in the department, and the testimony of officials high in that department bear evidence of the truth of the charges. Why, then, should the republican side of the chamber move heaven and earth to prevent a full and fair investigation? Innocent men are not in the habit of opposing investigation. Is it possible that the representatives of the party which lays claim to all the patriotism of the country know that corruption is rife, but are unwilling to expose and stamp it out for fear it will injure their party's chances in the approaching campaign?

The republican side of the lower house of congress grew very angry at Congressman Sulzer a few days ago when he referred to the renting of the New York customs house as a "fraud." Perhaps the anger of the republican majority was based upon the fact that Congressman Sulzer was right. Mr. Gage and Mr. Vanderlip kindly sold the old customs house to the Standard Oil bank. The bank gave Mr. Gage a certificate of deposit for the amount of the purchase price. The money was left in the bank without interest. Then the government continued to use the building and paid the bank rental for it. The bank did not pay out a dollar, and is enjoying the receipt of a goodly rental from the government, to say nothing of the free use of the money left in its vaults. In view of the facts, what other word than "fraud" could Congressman Sulzer use?

**What Is It If Not Plain Fraud?**

The Milwaukee News wants to know if the New York World's demand for the nomination of Cleveland is based on an ulterior motive. After the country's experience with secret board deals, tariff schedules designed in the interests of trust contributors to the Cleveland campaign fund and the nullification of the anti-trust and interstate commerce laws, all during the administration of Cleveland, the News is inclined to believe that the World's insistence upon Cleveland as a candidate is based upon a desire on the part of the World to bring about conditions wherein it can again make a grandstand play as the "defender of the people's rights." In view of the Cleveland record, a record well known to the New York World, the Milwaukee News has ample warrant for its belief that Mr. Pulitzer's newspaper has an ulterior motive.

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The supporters of Judge Parker make much of the fact that he carried New York, as if that alone were sufficient reason for making him the presidential candidate of democracy. It is true that Judge Parker was elected, but it should be borne in mind that when he was elected one of the opposing political parties had no candidate in the field. Judge Parker received 554,680 votes and was elected, while Mr. Coler received 655,398 votes and was defeated. Mr. Bryan received 123,706 more votes than Judge Parker, but failed to carry New York. The judge's supporters should hasten to advance a better argument than that of his vote-getting ability.

It has been said that the cheapest thing on earth today is human life, and there is some warrant for the assertion. Those who do not hesitate at exploitation because it costs human life may be induced to hesitate by showing that their course costs more than the lives of fellow men. There is an interesting incident in this connection. Hon. William Tebb has erected at Burstow, England, a public watering fountain, and cut on the front of the trough is the following inscription: "In memory of the mute fidelity of the four hundred thousand horses killed and wounded at the call of their masters during the South African war, 1899-1902, in a cause of which they knew nothing, this fountain is erected by a reverent fellow creature." But how many of the privates, or even commissioned officers, in the British army knew more about the cause in which they were fighting than did these dumb horses?

Land lust is the only excuse Great Britain can offer for the seizure of Tibet and the merciless slaughter of her people. The country is worthless from an agricultural standpoint. Mining is not worth while. The people are ignorant and their trade not worth having. But Great Britain hungers for more land and more people to govern. Tibet under British rule only means a little further extension of the Indian frontier. Some of these days the yellow race may awaken to a sense of its injuries and endeavor to avenge them. The development of Japan during the last fifty years is an indication of what China may do in a similar length of time. And with the entire yellow race developed as Japan has developed, and with centuries of oppression to avenge, what could the "Christian civilization" that has meant only loot and plunder expect save awful suffering in return for the suffering it has caused?

"The Star Spangled Banner" is our national anthem, but the St. Louis Globe-Democrat calls for the invention of some machine to start it so the singers will not be singing falsetto before they get half way through. Key's great song is an inspiring one, and the music goes with a dash and a vim that arouses the patriotic heart. But the song is not "singable" by the average American audience. All can start, but by the time "the rocket's red glare" is reached only trained voices can go on. Besides, the air is neither original nor American. What this country needs is a national anthem set to an American tune that can be sung by American crowds. "The Star Spangled Banner" is a good tune for bands, but it is painful to hear an American audience trying to sing the refrain and failing on "the land of the free" part of it because the music is too altitudinous.

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